ABSTRACT

A segmented arm support system and method for attachment to a surgical retractor includes an arm having a plurality of segments which can be joined together in frictional, locking engagement. In an unlocked state, the flexible arm can be manually positioned and the stabilization device placed over a localized area of tissue. Upon tightening of a cable running through the segments, the segments are brought together in frictional engagement. Each segment has a convex outer wall and a concave inner surface for attachment to adjacent segments. The segments are constructed of a stainless steel substrate material and coated with a high friction plating material to permit frictional engagement of the segments, thereby allowing for adequate tightening and locking of the arm.